Missouri Department of Transportation



Pete K. Rahn, Director

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October 6, 2005

Mr. Tom Turner Associate Regional Counsel U.S. EPA – Region V Office of Regional Counsel (C-14J) 77 W. Jackson Boulevard Chicago, Illinois 60604 EPA Region 5 Records Ctr. 285108

RE: September 27, 2005 Clayton Chemical Site General Notice of Potential Liability Letter

Dear Mr. Turner:

We acknowledge receipt of the September 27, 2005 letter of Ms. Linda Nachowicz, Chief of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Emergency Response Branch for Region 5, and we thank the U.S. EPA for that letter.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is environmentally responsible, and if we are the cause of environmental pollution, we are willing to pay our fair share of the cleanup and remediation costs of that pollution. In reading the September 27, 2005 letter, we have not found that the U.S. EPA has made an independent determination that MoDOT actually contributed to the pollution at the RRG/Clayton Chemical Site, or that MoDOT is legally responsible to pay for a portion of those cleanup costs. To date, the major PRPs have provided the U.S. EPA with no evidence that MoDOT is responsible for the pollution found at this facility. Their only data to date appears to be evidence that MoDOT shipped waste liquids to this site for lawful disposal, long before any site pollution was found and the processing facility was closed. MoDOT will contact legal counsel for the major PRPs at Dickinson Wright for further information and any appropriate action in this regard.

MoDOT is always willing to participate in and finance our fair share of any environmental site pollution, if MoDOT caused that pollution. We do not read the September 27, 2005 letter as a U.S. EPA finding that MoDOT did pollute this site, and we certainly have *no* evidence in our possession indicating that MoDOT directly or indirectly polluted the Clayton Chemical Site. If we have misread or misunderstood the contents of Ms. Nachowicz's letter, please contact MoDOT's attorney, Senior Administrative Counsel Gregory W. Schroeder, at the address appearing on the letterhead above. Mr. Schroeder may also be reached by phone at (573) 751-7451, or by fax at (573) 526-4408.

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We hope that this reply, based on the evidence we have at present, is satisfactory to your agency.

Sincerely,

Pete Rahn Director

Copies:

Dave Nichols - do

Kathy Harvey - de

John Jurgensmeyer – de Greg Schroeder – cco

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